

§ 377.10

Vocational rehabilitation services means the services authorized in section 103(a) of the Act. (Section 103(a) of the Act)

(b) *Definitions in EDGAR.* (1) The following terms used in this part are defined in 34 CFR 77.1:

Applicant
Application
Award
Budget period
Department
EDGAR
Nonprofit
Project
Project period
Public
Secretary

(2) The following terms used in this part are defined in 34 CFR 74.3:

Grant
Grantee

(c) *Other definitions.* The following definitions also apply to this part:

Employment outcome means entering or retaining full-time or, if appropriate, part-time competitive employment in the integrated labor market, the practice of a profession, self-employment, homemaking, farm or family work (including work for which payment is in kind rather than in cash), extended employment in a community rehabilitation program, supported employment, or other gainful work.

Voucher means a credit of specified monetary value, issued by a grantee to an eligible client, that the eligible client exchanges for vocational rehabilitation services from a qualified provider.

(Authority: Secs. 7(5), 7(8)(A), and 802(g) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 29 U.S.C. 706 and 29 U.S.C. 797a(g))

[58 FR 40709, July 29, 1993, as amended at 59 FR 8340, Feb. 18, 1994]

Subpart B—How Does One Apply for an Award?

§ 377.10 How does an eligible entity apply for an award?

In order to apply for a grant, an eligible entity shall submit an application to the Secretary in response to an ap-

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plication notice published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(Authority: Sec. 802(g)(3) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 29 U.S.C. 797a(g)(3))

§ 377.11 What is the content of an application for an award?

(a) The grant application must include a description of—

(1) The manner in which the applicant intends to promote increased client choice in the geographical area identified in the application;

(2) The manner in which the applicant intends to provide individuals, including individuals with cognitive disabilities, the information necessary to make informed choices, including, at a minimum, informed choices in the selection of goals, services, and providers.

(3) The outreach activities the applicant plans to conduct to obtain eligible clients, including clients who are individuals with a severe disability;

(4) The manner in which the applicant will ensure that service providers are accredited or meet any quality assurance and cost-control criteria established by the State;

(5) The manner in which the applicant will ensure that eligible clients are satisfied with the quality and scope of services provided;

(6) The manner in which the applicant will monitor and account for use of funds to purchase services;

(7) The manner in which the applicant will determine the monetary value of the services or products available to clients, including, if appropriate, the monetary value of vouchers;

(8) The manner in which the applicant will address the needs of individuals with disabilities who are from minority backgrounds; and

(9) Those features of the proposed project that the applicant considers to be essential and a discussion of their potential for widespread replication.

(b) The application also must include assurances from the applicant that—

(1) A written plan to provide vocational rehabilitation services will be established for, and with the full participation of, each eligible client, and,

if the client elects, with the participation also of family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives, that at a minimum will include—

(i) A statement of the client's vocational rehabilitation goals, which must include goals that are designed to lead to an employment outcome consistent with the client's unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, and capabilities;

(ii) A statement of the specific vocational rehabilitation services to be provided and the projected dates for the initiation and termination of each service; and

(iii) A description of an evaluation procedure for determining whether the client's vocational rehabilitation goals are being achieved, including—

- (A) Objective evaluation criteria; and
- (B) An evaluation schedule;

(2) The Federal funds granted under this part will be used to supplement, and in no case to supplant, funds made available from other Federal and non-Federal sources for projects providing increased choice in the rehabilitation process;

(3) At least 80 percent of the funds awarded for any project under this part will be used to provide vocational rehabilitation services, as specifically chosen by eligible clients;

(4) The applicant will cooperate fully with the Secretary in a national evaluation, including assisting the Department's contractor in selecting and obtaining data for a control group established through random assignment or by the selection of a matched comparison group; and

(5) Individuals with disabilities will be involved in the development and implementation of the project.

(c) Each applicant also shall submit to the Secretary any other information and assurances that the Secretary determines to be necessary.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1820-0018)

(Authority: Secs. 21(b)(6), 802(g)(2), 802(g)(3), 802(g)(5), 802(g)(6), and 802(g)(7) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 29 U.S.C. 718b and 29 U.S.C. 797a(g)(2), (3), (5), (6), and (7))

Subpart C—How Does the Secretary Make an Award?

§ 377.20 How does the Secretary evaluate an application?

(a) The Secretary evaluates an application on the basis of the criteria in § 377.21.

(b) The Secretary awards up to 100 points for these criteria.

(c) The maximum possible score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses.

(Authority: Sec. 802(g)(3) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 29 U.S.C. 797a(g)(3))

§ 377.21 What selection criteria does the Secretary use?

The Secretary uses the following criteria to evaluate an application:

(a) *Plan of operation.* (30 points) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality of the plan of operation for the project, including—

(1) The extent to which the project includes specific intended outcomes that—

(i) Will accomplish the purpose of the program to provide increased client choice in the rehabilitation process, including at a minimum increased choice in the selection of goals, services, and providers, leading to an employment outcome;

(ii) Are attainable within the project period, given the project's budget and other resources;

(iii) Are objective and measurable for purposes of evaluation, including an estimate of the numbers of clients to be served;

(iv) Include objectives to be met during each budget period that can be used to determine the progress of the project toward meeting its intended outcomes;

(2) The extent to which the plan of operation specifies the methodology for accomplishing each objective of the project;

(3) The extent to which the applicant's plan of management, including resources and timelines, is designed to achieve each objective and intended outcome during the period of Federal funding;

(4) The extent to which the applicant's plan identifies the numbers of eligible clients by type of disability